

Stormy Days Jacket

ANNETTE SWAN SCHIFF



STRUCTURE

Twill with color-and-weave.

EQUIPMENT

8-shaft loom, 23" weaving width; 8- or 12-dent reed; 2 shuttles; temple (optional but recommended).

YARNS

Warp: 5/2 pearl cotton (2,100 yd/lb; Valley Yarns; WEBS), #8990 Black, 824 yd; #8418 Silver Birch, 828 yd.

Weft: 5/2 pearl cotton, #8990 Black and #8418 Silver Birch, 619 yd each. **Note:** The woven yardage you need will depend on your jacket pattern and size. For each additional yard of fabric needed, add about 1¼ yd to warp length.

OTHER SUPPLIES

Fusible thread (optional); jacket pattern 1800 from The Weaver Sews or a jacket pattern of your choice; sewing supplies and notions required by pattern; Nikwax TX.Direct Wash-In or other waterproofing for wet-weather clothing.

WARP LENGTH

367 ends 4½ yd long (includes floating selvages; allows 11" for take-up, 41" for loom waste and sampling).

SETTS

Warp: 16 epi (2-1-1/dent in a 12-dent reed or 2/dent in an 8-dent reed).

Weft: 16 ppi.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 23".

Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) 110".

Finished size: (after wet-finishing) fabric 21½" × 104", jacket with 40" chest, 36" waist, 26½" sleeve length.

I have long admired waxed cotton totes and jackets. The waxing gives a water-resistant finish, making a jacket suitable for damp outside wear. My daughter recently ordered Nikwax TX.Direct Wash-In waterproofing for wet-weather clothing to "re-waterproof" her hiking clothing. Her purchase gave me a light-bulb moment: "I wonder if I can wax handwoven cotton fabric?" I quickly looked online and found many articles and products for making my own waxed cotton. The result is a fabric that is both breathable and water resistant—a highly advantageous combination.

I used 5/2 cotton for a sturdy fabric, and a color-and-weave pattern to add visual interest while keeping floats to a minimum. I then chose a threading and treadling draft from *Heddlecraft* September 2018 (see Resources).

The jacket pattern is one I designed—I have experience designing my own patterns. You can purchase a similar jacket pattern from The Weaver Sews Daryl Lancaster Pattern Collection, specifically the 1800 Zippered Jacket (see Resources). The jacket is not exactly the same but has a similar silhouette and is close in appearance to mine. As a bonus, Daryl's patterns are specifically designed for handwoven fabric. Purchase the pattern first so you know how wide and long to weave *your* fabric.

1 Wind a warp of 365 ends 4½ yd long (or length needed for your pattern's fabric requirements), alternating Black and Silver Birch and ending with Black. You can wind the two colors at the same

time, separating the threads with your finger. Wind 2 additional ends of Silver Birch for floating selvages and set them aside. Warp the loom using your preferred method following the draft in Figure 2. Centering for a weaving width of 23", sley 2-1-1/dent in a 12-dent reed or 2/dent in an 8-dent reed. Sley the floating selvages through empty dents on each side of the warp and weight them over the back beam.

2 Wind bobbins with each of the weft colors. Spread the warp with scrap yarn. If desired, start by weaving a few picks of plain weave with fusible thread.

3 Weave following the draft in Figure 1 for 110", or weave fabric at least 6% longer than your desired finished length so you will have enough yardage when the fabric is wet-finished. As you weave, periodically look at the cloth from a distance to check for skips or other errors. Annette recommends using a temple to ensure that the motifs at the edges are the same width as



Sewing tips


- Annette recommends watching Daryl Lancaster's videos (see Resources) before sewing your jacket, as she has lots of good hints and information for sewing with handwoven fabric.
- This fabric can fray and stretch during the sewing process; as such, Annette outlined the pattern pieces on her fabric with a fine felt-tip pen, then did a three-step zigzag around every piece before cutting it out.
- Use a #14 ball-point needle on your sewing machine. The ball point slips between the 5/2 cotton threads easily and maintains good tension.
- Use a narrow zigzag stitch for all seams to give them a bit of stretch.
- Iron all seams with heat, pressure, and a pressing cloth to minimize bulk.
- Annette cut out her jacket pieces so that the zipper edges were on the selvages. She used extra fabric to add a gusset under the arms and pleats at the sides. She cut these pieces with one edge on a selvedge, then butted up the selvedge edges of the back piece and added pieces and sewed them together by hand. Daryl Lancaster's "What Happens When You Don't Have Enough Fabric . . . Cheat! Part 2" on YouTube demonstrates this technique (see Resources).
- Annette fused lightweight knit interfacing to the shoulder areas, front and back, to prevent the handwoven fabric from stretching out of shape. The interfacing extends down just past the bottom edge of the armholes.
- The weight of the jacket hangs on your body from the shoulders. Use twill tape to stabilize the shoulder seams so they don't stretch out over time.
- Finish all seams with bias tape, or your preferred method, to prevent future fraying. (The jacket will also look much more professional if all interior seams are finished.) Annette used Seams Great seam binding on the sleeve and shoulder seams and finished the side and front seams with bias tape.

those in the center of the cloth. If desired, finish the weaving with several picks of plain weave using fusible thread.

4 Cut the fabric from the loom. Zigzag the raw edges, or if used, press the fusible threads between freezer paper (so the fusible thread does not stick to your ironing board or iron). This will keep the threads in place when wet-finished.

5 Wet-finish the fabric by machine washing in warm water. Tumble dry on low heat until damp-dry, then press to finish drying.

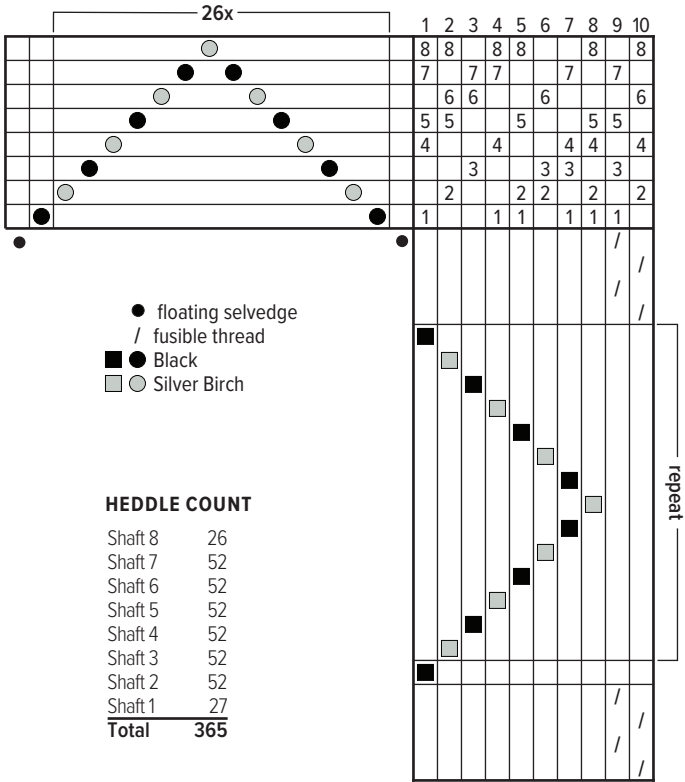
6 Because the two sides are different, decide which side of the fabric is the right side. Mark all right sides with a safety pin when your pieces are cut out so you don't accidentally sew any section with the wrong side out. Lay out and cut out jacket pieces, then sew according to pattern instructions. See Sewing tips for Annette's advice on working with this fabric.

7 Treat your completed jacket with wash-in or spray-on waterproofing according to the manufacturer's directions. After treating the jacket, always wash it according to the instructions of the waterproofing product you used. 

RESOURCES

Lancaster, Daryl. 1800 Zippered Jacket. weaversew.com/shop/1800-zippered-jacket.html.
———. *The Weaver Sews*. YouTube. youtube.com/channel/UCmz2mYvnteUP11-LvK8-eNg.

1. DRAFT



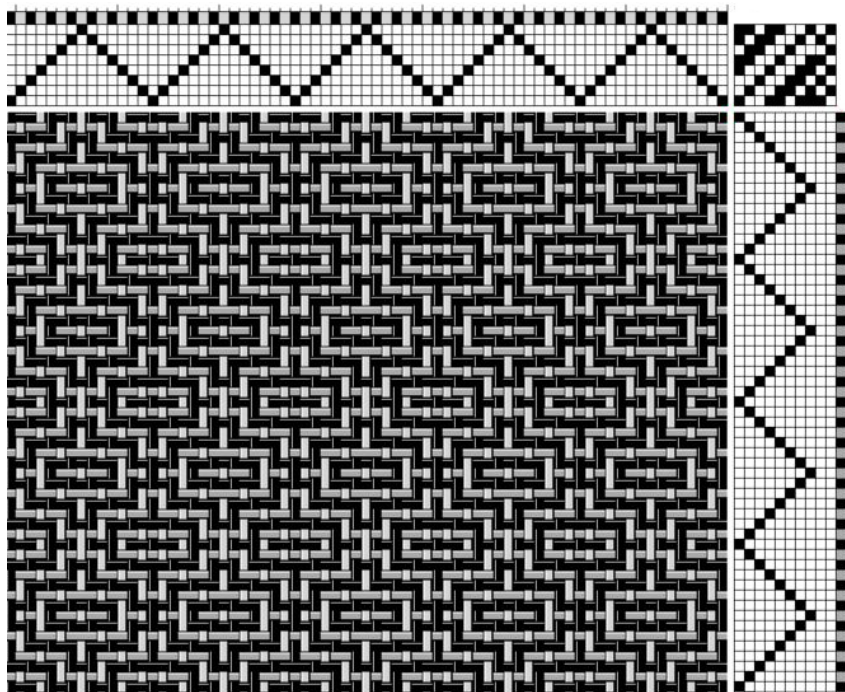
Nikwax TX.Direct Wash-In. nikwax.com/en-us/productselector/waterproofing/.
Spady, Robyn. "Color-and-Weave." *Heddlecraft*, September/October 2018, 40.

ANNETTE SWAN SCHIPF *lives on a ranch in Montana and has taught weaving for over 30 years. Beautiful mountain views in one direction and wide-open prairies in the other inspire her weaving.*

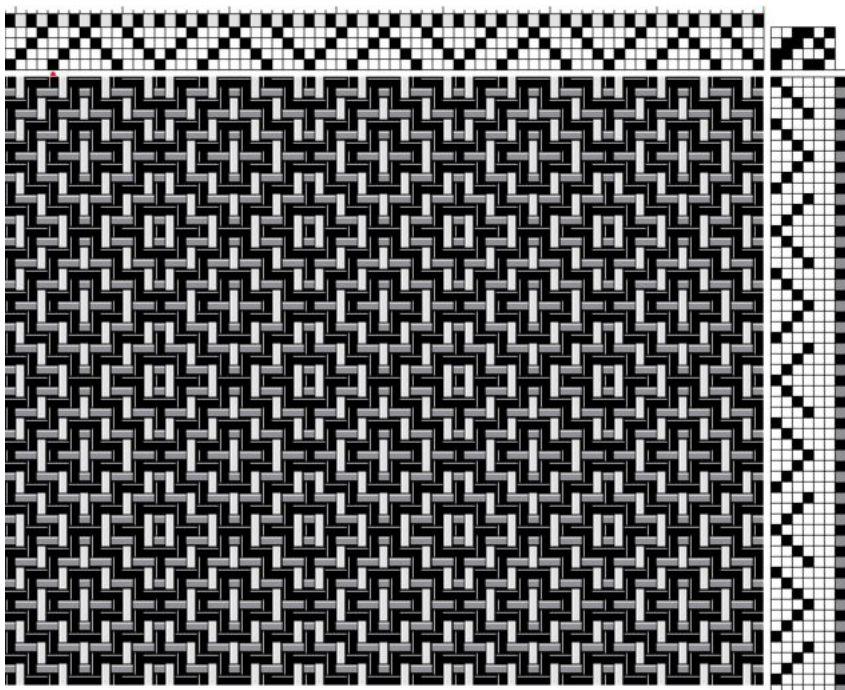
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REDUCING TWILLS PRACTICE DRAFTS

Whether you use the wrapping or telescoping method, your results should be the same. Try both and check your work below. We used a 2/2 twill tie up but as Madelyn notes you could also use a 1/3 or 3/1 tie-up. Note that translating a draft doesn't always produce a draft with the same number of ends, but in this case the two WIFs which are in the WIF Library, have the same number of ends, and there is no reason to balance the 4-shaft version.



8-shaft draft and drawdown.



Check your work: 4-shaft translation draft and drawdown.